

# Point Three

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The monthly magazine of TOC H





# Point Three

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Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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(Telephone: 0296 623911.)

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Toc H is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group – at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood – which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

## Cover picture

Happy faces on the 'Seagulls' Activity Week in Jersey for a mixture of deprived and handicapped children.

Photo: Frank Leighton

# Editorial

## International Year of Peace

The International Year of Peace will soon be drawing to a close, and it is time to ask what has been achieved, and where do we go from here. It is sad that a year so bravely named should have seen so much violence around the world. While it is not too late to see some progress made we have to admit that things do not look very encouraging. South Africa has moved closer to rather than farther away from a final explosion of bloody violence, and the conflict of opinions as to what should be done to prevent that happening has put the Commonwealth under serious stress. The war between Iraq and Iran rumbles on, with the chief victims often appearing to be the innocent crews of oil tankers – the 'Naval Targets' of news reports. Lebanon continues to be powerless to prevent other nations using her territory for their battlefield. The tension between Israel and her neighbours remains at a high level, and terrorism looks as though it is almost the only growth industry of the Middle East. Much closer to home Northern Ireland seems no closer to a peaceful solution to the divisions which have plagued it for centuries. And far away, across the Atlantic, Nicaragua is one of several areas where Capitalism and Communism meet head on. It's not a happy picture, and far more could be added to it. So it's all too easy to look at the International Year of Peace and conclude that it has been a dismal failure, but that would be wrong. Only those who had expected peace to break out everywhere by the end of IYP could feel that nothing has been achieved.

The one real, abiding sadness that I have about the year has been the attitude of our own government towards IYP, for we have been one of only two nations who, as members of the UN, declined to make any financial contribution to the UN's own programme, or to the work to mark the year here. But in spite of that much has been achieved at local levels. Up and down the country groups have been meeting to discuss the issues raised by IYP. Many of those groups have not been those whom the cynics would have predicted – groups already committed to working for peace, who have for long been categorised in the minds of many as irresponsible, and allowing themselves to be used for the nefarious political purposes of communism. Rather, people from all kinds of backgrounds and parties, from different walks of life and with different faiths, have come together to share with each other their sense of urgency about the need for peace. And while there has no doubt been a lot of starry eyed idealism, there has also been an honest attempt to come to grips with some of the issues which are at stake. Many, many groups have debated issues like peace and development – how can we hope to have a peaceful world when there is such a gap between rich nations and poor? For many groups the issue of justice has loomed large, and it seems to have become increasingly clear that, however difficult it may seem at first to make a marriage between peace and justice, peace without justice is, by definition, an unjust peace, and as such would contain the seeds of its own destruction. Discussion about peace in communities has given to many groups the chance to examine discrimination in some depth, and, through role plays and simulations, to begin to discover something of what it feels like to be discriminated against, and to analyse the feeling and motives of those who do the discriminating. Discussions about peace and disarmament have, for many, brought the wheel full circle as they have related expenditure on arms to the needs, not only of the third world, but of the poor and long-term unemployed in our own communities.

That these issues should have been shared in the way that they have been is one of the real achievements of this year, and there can no longer be any doubt that peace is not the interest of a lunatic minority, but the real concern of the great majority of ordinary people. Of course, opinions as to how peace can best be achieved are widely varied, and will continue to be. We shall go on arguing about the best ways of approaching disarmament, of promoting development, of meeting the demands of justice, and of learning to live together in more creative relationships in our communities. Only time will tell if the steps we have taken in these areas are lasting, but instead of just waiting to see, why not make sure that your branch or group does what it can to keep the issues alive in your area.

CRR



# Bedford Festivities

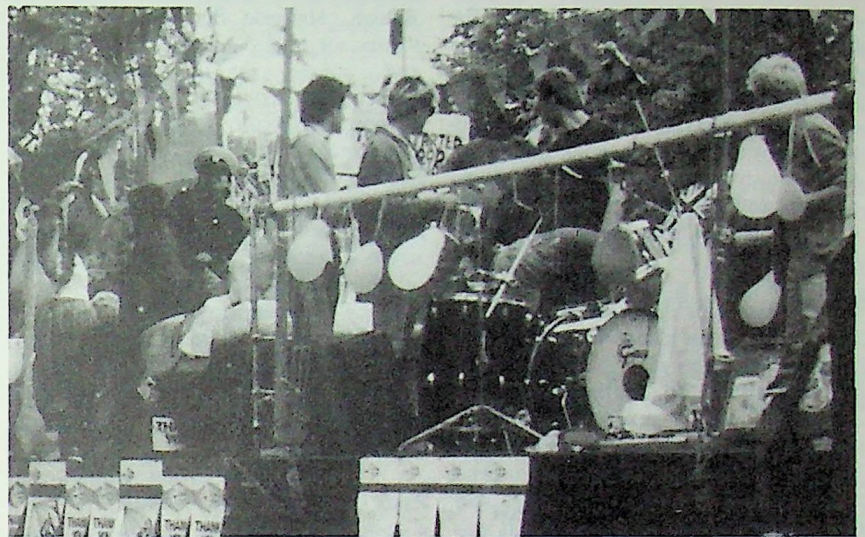
Anita Ram



Photo: Bedfordshire Times

During the Spring Bank Holiday weekend the Bedford Youth Group had a splendid time publicising Toc H at the Bedford Festival, which was attended by about 250,000 people. It took months of preparation to get everything ready, but in the end all was prepared in time. A local firm lent a lorry to use as a float in the procession, and this, of course, had to be prepared on the Friday night, so that was really busy.

It's surprising how much it takes to fill a 36 foot trailer! First came the poles for the bunting, then the windows in which we were advertising the Flashing Light Scheme. Next came the bed we were using to tell about the Blood Transfusion Service. Finally there was a space at the end for a local group offering free services.



That same evening the marquee had to be put up on its site by the river. After that the display had to be set out. The two teams worked hard, and by 11pm we had finished, at least for that night.

On Saturday morning we were up early to put the finishing touches to the float. Then the real fun began — dressing up time for us. One was a nurse, others were soldiers, another still appeared as a devil!

Angie turned out with a real Caribbean look, Jane was a Bunnie Girl, the patient was Janet, and Miranda worked hard at being an old lady! At last the Carnival Procession got going, and we had great fun throwing sweets to the crowds and dancing.



Photo: Bedfordshire Times

Meanwhile, back at the marquee, the stall was busy with the tombola, lucky dip and the display stand, and when we had finished the procession and taken all our things off the lorry we went down to help them. The day ended with a big fireworks display.

Sunday began quietly, but visitors to the marquee grew as the day went on, and kept us very busy.

We were surprised and delighted at the number of people who came to ask about Toc H. We seemed to spend the whole afternoon telling people about it. The weekend ended with us tired, but happy, agreeing that it had been a most successful and enjoyable weekend.



# Round and about

## The housebound get out!

Ken Asquith has written from Newsome in Huddersfield about their 21st annual outing for the housebound. It was obviously enjoyed very much by everyone, both for the fresh human contact and for the beauties of the countryside. *'The sights we see every day are very much taken for granted, but to someone who rarely gets the chance to leave their home they are indeed something special.'*

## Toc H could:

A residential weekend was held at the Colchester YHA on 13-15 June to discuss the possibility of Projects in The Colne/Orwell District.

The meeting was attended by seven young Toc H volunteers and representatives from Sudbury, Ipswich, Trimley and two Clacton Branches and the weekend was led by John Burgess and Judi Edwards.

Many ideas were discussed in depth on the first day. The main needs seemed to be gardening for elderly and disabled folk; provision of meeting places for lonely and elderly people and for the many mentally handicapped, who live in bed and breakfast accommodation and seem to have nowhere warm and comfortable to go during the day. It was finally decided that Trimley (near Felixstowe) had the need and possible manpower resources for a Project on Conservation and the Ecology and also gardening for the elderly and handicapped. Further research is being carried out and it is hoped to have a weekend at Trimley on 20/21 September, for Volunteers and Support Group and local Toc H, to reconnoitre and decide exactly where operations will start.

This was not just a useful weekend, but thoroughly enjoyable as well.

## News from Bargoed

**Bargoed Ladies** have been having a busy time lately! They have been working hard to raise funds for the radiotherapy unit at Velindre Hospital in Cardiff. In this they have enlisted the help of the ladies of the RAF Association, and were glad to be able to present £425 to the unit as a result of their efforts. They have also been hosts for the Cardiff and District Rededication Service, arranging the service and providing the tea afterwards.

## The lovely ladies of Honiton

The accolade comes from Ted Newman of Ilminster Branch! A group of 50 elderly folk were the guests of the Branch on a trip to Sidmouth. After a walk along the 'prom' they travelled on to Honiton *'for a truly magnificent tea provided by the lovely ladies of Honiton'*.

*'It was'*, says Ted, *'a splendid and enjoyable day'* to which Honiton's lovely ladies made a great contribution!

## A visit to Sandringham

Writing from the Stowmarket Women's Branch, Marjorie Stammers says, *'On 9 June we took 52 disabled, housebound and widows for a drive to the Sandringham Estate via Thetford Chase - a most delightful drive - and on to Hunstanton where the Toc H ladies and helpers had prepared a sumptuous homemade tea. It gave such pleasure to a lot of people. One lady, badly crippled, wrote a letter of thanks to the Branch which so aptly summed it up. She said what a wonderful spirit of Toc H prevailed; it was the team work involved which made it so successful. Our Branch and theirs hadn't met for two years and yet the welcome we got from Hunstanton was tremendous.'*

*'Thank you Hunstanton, you made our efforts so worthwhile.'*

## Badges in Canada

Dick Stayman was in Canada recently and writes about a surprise meeting.

*'Do members always wear their Toc H badge, even when on holiday? On a recent visit to Vancouver, Canada, while travelling into town on a bus a gentleman sat next to me and seeing my badge introduced himself as Martin Chesworth the son of 'Ches' Chesworth, the one-time staff member and Editor of the Toc H Journal.'*

*'He told me that as a young man he used to provide little sketches for his father to illustrate articles in the magazine - perhaps some members will remember them - and was familiar with some of the old stalwarts like Barclay Baron and Hubert Secretan as well as some who are still around today.'*

*'Although now retired he's following in his father's footsteps and is the Editor of the Canadian Field Hockey Association's monthly magazine. I met him several times on the bus - he lives only a street away from where I was staying - and also at a junior hockey*

*tournament in which my friend's grandson was playing. We had several long chats on the lines of "do you remember x" or "is y still around".'*

*'So, the moral of the story is always wear your badge, you never know what interesting people you might meet.'*

\* \* \*

While from West Central Branch we have news of events in Australia.

West Central (W) Branch, although small in numbers, has in its membership two Australians and an English lady, Helen Stauffer, who lived and worked in Australia for a number of years, joining both Brisbane and Sydney Branches while in those cities.

In March, Barbara Pennyfield made a three week visit home to her State of South Australia which is celebrating its 150th Jubilee during 1986. A special visit was made to her home town of Berri on the Murray River to join in the 75th anniversary celebrations of the District. At the Back to Berri Primary School she was asked, as the ex-student who had travelled the furthest to the reunion, to plant a tree to commemorate the occasion. (A Flinder Range Wattle.) Barbara's impending arrival had been announced on the local Radio Station, and later at a function at Wilabalangaloo (local National Trust Property) she was interviewed by the TV and broadcast on the local evening news.



## Exploring darkest . . . Lincolnshire?

*'The spirit of adventure in Toc H is not dead yet'* I thought, glancing quickly at a headline from the *Horncastle News*. A quick picture of intrepid members setting out in pith helmets and khaki drill flashed into my mind! Lines of bearers, made up from unsuccessful applicants for projects, stretched out behind them. Actually, it wasn't quite like that, but a fascinating evening in which, with the aid of slides, **Coningsby Branch** looked at Lincolnshire from the air. It's surprising what a difference a new perspective can make.



## On your bike

Talking of new perspectives, Toc H in Derby has given a whole new meaning to Norman Tebbit's unhappy remark. Bicycles feature in their annual summer camp, and over the years their old ones had worn out. A request through their local paper has resulted in the offer of six bikes, which must have been a most welcome response. It just shows what can happen when you ask for help.

## A new Branch

It's quite easy to feel that Branch closures take up altogether too much time, so it is a particular pleasure to be able to report on a new Branch. **Treforest Women's Group** was granted Branch status in March, and Dorothy Warlow, secretary of the new Branch, has written to tell us about the celebrations they had when their Lamp was presented. The presentation was made by Agnes Cook, and the Lamp was received by Blodwen Daniel, the Branch Pilot. We are glad to add our own welcome and good wishes to those the new Branch has already received.

## Pop-in in Saltburn

It is said that familiarity breeds contempt, and that people will get used to anything if it goes on for long enough. Cynical observations maybe, but often all too close to the truth. And if you can reduce a problem to statistics you've gone a fair way towards boring people with it. By the time the unemployed have been expressed in figures, which are then seasonally adjusted, padded, massaged and dressed up to suit the requirements of one political party or another people begin to forget that behind all the figures are other people like them, suffering from the effects of very low income, and often from a sense of degradation, rejection and hopelessness. Toc H must always deal with the people behind the figures and the new Pop-in in Saltburn, Middlesbrough is another example of caring for people.

## Trivial Pursuits in Bridlington?

Well, only if you call £130 a trivial sum! **Bridlington TAG Group** hit on the idea of playing Trivial Pursuit for 24 hours in order to raise funds to take a group of children to Colsterdale. Quite apart from the financial success of the event, members of Bridlington TAG may well have to recognise that they form a real mine of useless information in the Movement!

# A Welsh Adventure -Toc H Style

Laura Roberts went on her first weekend with the Bangor Brown Bread Action Group in March. It was a weekend for severely handicapped and hyperactive children — guaranteed to be exhausting, but deeply rewarding if you could stand the pace. Laura could and did, and has sent us this account of her first project. Laura's original report was in Welsh, but Helen Tomlinson has thoughtfully provided us with a translation! Is BBBAG the only bilingual Action Group in the country? Ed

## Friday, 21 March

Rhyd Ddu is at the foot of the Snowdonia Mountain Range and we were staying in an old school which had been converted into a hostel. After tea we played games in order to get to know each other. The purpose of the first game was to get to know people's names. For this we used a large soft ball and the person with the ball asked another person his or her name and then threw the ball to the person who would tell everybody their name. This continued until everyone's name was known. The next game was a bit more difficult. We had to remember people's names in order to throw the ball!

For another game, we used the playscheme's parachute. I think this was Tony's favourite because he could not stop laughing when the parachute went up like a mushroom and he loved spinning around underneath the parachute.

After a number of exhausting games it was time for bed. Tony was in a small room on his own and John, one of the volunteers, slept in the same room. The other men were in one large room and the women were in a cold outside building. The men did not get to sleep until about 3.30am because one of the boys from Caernarfon kept getting out of his sleeping bag and putting the light on!

## Saturday, 22 March

Tony was up early morning, much earlier than I was, and I found him in somebody's size nine shoes!

After breakfast we went for a drive in the minibus to Porthmadoc. We had a look around Woolworths and then went to a cafe for a drink. We continued on our journey to the Warws Warehouse in Beddgelert where Tony bought a red hat!

We went back to the centre for dinner and then it was back out again in the buses to go horse riding. Due to the rain we had to ride indoors. Tony kept taking his riding hat off but I eventually succeeded in keeping it on his head!

In the evening we rambled down to the local pub in two groups at different intervals. It was soon the end of the day and bedtime once again.

## Sunday, 23 March

At the final breakfast of the weekend we were served with sausages, scrambled eggs and cereal, then we were ready to have a drive in the minibus to Plas Menai for a morning swim. We had hired the swimming pool for an hour. Tony wore a life-jacket to begin with but it kept coming off so he was then provided with arm-bands which proved more successful. Everybody enjoyed being in water especially Tony who loved splashing everybody in sight!

We went up to the restaurant for our dinner where we enjoyed steaklet with green beans, carrots, potatoes and gravy. This was followed by peaches and ice-cream. Following this enjoyable meal we all posed outside Plas Menai for a group photograph. After returning to the Centre we packed our clothes because it was the end of a very enjoyable weekend.



*Tony, the star of the weekend!*



# Women and Work Reflections on Retirement

Brenda Cowderoy

Brenda Cowderoy, who has been General Secretary of the YWCA (UK), and then General Secretary of the Girls Friendly Society, reflects on the changes which have taken place in the attitude of society to women who work, and on the challenges which are now being raised. We are grateful to the Industrial Christian Fellowship for permission to use this article.

'To learn and labour truly to get mine own living and to do my duty in that state of life to which it shall please God to call me...' and notice that it is 'shall please' and not 'has pleased'. This was the school confirmation class making its way through the catechism in the Book of Common Prayer. In the 30s and 'before the war', many of us learned it by heart when we were seven. That is now a world away. 'What will our own living be?' we wondered. Gainful employment and marriage did not go together, although the war was taking our mothers out of the home to various kinds of war work, or to return to professions given up on marriage. The choices for us were widened by the war from the conventional teaching, nursing, secretarial work and the Civil Service to include the Forces, the Land Army and professions where women had been thinly represented. For married women to be in employment is, in the south of this country at least, one of the great changes brought about by the war and it affects all income groups. Wives have always helped in small family concerns and low income has been supplemented by domestic work; but otherwise, before the war, only misfortune, eccentricity or perhaps genius would have taken a woman into full employment. We expected it to be the same when the war was over. Long term careers were for single women.

Memory allows you to fly on and land where you will. It is 16 years later and there I am in a very dark suit - bright colours are unprofessional - in my office in the John Lewis Partnership. No one is surprised that the Legal Adviser is a woman. It is nothing new. The Financial Adviser, several Managing Directors and, most formidable of us all, a posse of central buyers, are women. So are many department managers and those responsible for personnel. Fifty per cent of the workforce is female. The Partnership has a - rule against discrimination and may be somewhat in advance of its time. Dire predictions of women having poor health records at work, causing marital breakdown, being less committed to the task than male colleagues are not being fulfilled here. You no longer have to be single to be career minded. Another 15 or so years

and I am behind another desk as the General Secretary of the YWCA of Great Britain. The pressures on women to take or remain in paid employment have intensified with full employment. They have reached a point where my married college contemporaries describe themselves as 'not doing anything' if they are housewives at home. Education is a growth industry. No one could envisage a redundant teacher. Working mothers are sharing with the media much of the blame for teenage unrest.

And here, one morning, staff coffee time is enlivened by a visitor from the American YWCA on her way to a conference on 'Sexism in the 70s'. She is the first real feminist most of us have met. It is another world. We hear what she says but we are unable to relate it to our own lives.

It is all too new. Not long after that a community worker explains on recruitment that her young child will be looked after by her husband. He will give up his profession and stay at home for five years, after which he will work for five years and she will stay at home.

Some of us say it will not work and in that instance some of us are proved to be right; but that it should be proposed and given a chance to work shows a shift of opinion on traditional roles.

And so to 1985. Six years as General Secretary of the Girls Friendly Society have included responsibility for the Society's work in industrial mission and contacts with chaplaincy teams and the ICF. In reflecting, just after retirement, I must resist the temptation to generalise from the experience of one working life. The law, department stores, supermarkets, hostels, the voluntary world, especially the women's and youth organisations, from meetings in the City to meetings in Church Houses and from the Old Bailey to the GFS, varied as it has been, it has not been typical. But what is typical?

Our view depends on where we stand and when we stand there. Recognising these limitations and in the manner of the question in the old history examination paper I shall try to 'compare and contrast' 1985 with 1955.

Firstly I see women accepted without reservations in the traditional and the new professions and that this has opened wider career opportunities in commerce and industry. It no longer goes without saying that marriage will interrupt, still less end, a woman's career. Within recent years marital status has increasingly been seen as outside the concern of the employer. We live in a society where marriage between partners is no longer assumed and we are told that one marriage in three is likely to end in divorce. In this time of unemployment and redundancy the wife may find that she has the capacity to earn when her husband has not. Economic uncertainty hangs over some of the hitherto safest of occupations. Society sees childlessness as an acceptable option. Against this background it is not surprising that whether or not a wife works gainfully is now a family and a private decision.

I do not think there has been a corresponding change in the attitude of society and of women themselves to the care of young children although there are sharply differing views on both the possibility and the rightness of combining this with paid employment.

Secondly it seems to me that women are accepted in the working world in their own right, whereas in 1955 they were often admitted as exceptions who must not be seen as proving a rule. We are not as 'special' as we were. In some fields we are more assertive and in general less submissive than formerly. In 1955 we might have seen it as a complement to be equated in competence with a man. Today such expressions as 'as good as any man in the job' are dangerous.

Words matter. In 1955, even in 1970, I would be happy enough to receive a letter assuming that I was 'Dear Sir'. Now it is otherwise. The automatic system in my mind that translated, where appropriate, 'he' to 'she', or added the one to the other in professional communications, seems to have ceased to work.

In clothes, accessories and style the woman executive no longer adopts or copies standards that are masculine. For example the mail order catalogues assume that women will want items for work as



# Personality Point

The following new members were registered during June/July:

Mrs Elsie M Limbird (Belfairs W)  
Alfred Allison, Mrs Hannah J Allison  
(Bishop Auckland J)  
Miss Olive M Rand (Broadwater W)  
Kevin A Bolt (Budleigh Salterton M)  
Mrs Emma Knowles, Mrs Margaret A  
Atkin (Nailsea), Mrs Mary E Dalley  
(Plympton W), Mrs Anne Giles, Mrs  
Dorothy Wright (Swannington W)  
Mrs Jane F Douch (South Devon District)

Mrs S Carne, Mrs D Charleston (Troon W)  
Mrs Emily M Christian, Mrs Mary M  
Johnson (Wallasey W), Roy L Barber,  
Ashley Cooper, Kevin Jackson, Mrs  
Brenda Middleton, Brian W Middleton,  
Miss Tracy Powis (Wolstanton (Newcastle  
Staffs) J), Rev Richard L Sturch  
Wolverton M).

A warm welcome to 22 new members



## Congratulations!

Constance and Lancelot Prideaux-Brune

*pictured on their diamond wedding day in June, holding a greetings telegram from Her Majesty The Queen. Lance, who will be 92 in October, is a President of Toc H.*

well as for home and leisure and also that she will be organising her own financial affairs.

Finally, I believe that the gap between women in employment and those who are at home has narrowed. 'Only a housewife' is not so often heard today. On the other hand the right and sometimes the need to chose to work gainfully is accepted. The voluntary organisations have recognised women's abilities and trained them for responsibility. They have contributed to making women more confident in dealing with the world and in them the volunteer and the gainfully employed can meet.

The second part of my own working life has been spent as the General Secretary of two Christian societies for women and girls, one ecumenical and one Anglican and both with a long tradition of concern for the young woman at work. I believe that the changes I have touched on here and others which will lie within the experience of women in different spheres of work have implications for the mission of the Christian church in this country.

They challenge the whole church and not only industrial mission. If they are not understood or seen as significant it may be because as church women we are keeping quiet about them. The bishop, the priest, the minister and the vicar are hearing what we think is good for them or what we think they want to hear. Perhaps we have Sunday and weekday roles.

If so, we are not being realistic. Let Michel Quoist put it for me this way . . . 'Thus to keep faith with Jesus Christ we must begin by keeping faith with the realities of daily life. Our first act should be the cultivation of loyalty to ourselves, to our lives, to our community and all the human groupings within which we live, to our relatives, our work etc. It is there that we have the opportunity to take part in the work of creation and, by our faithfulness to that task, in the continuing Incarnation'. (1)

(1) Michel Quoist 'Christ is Alive' Gilland Macmillan Ltd. 1971.

## Country Holiday Accommodation (Bed, Breakfast, and Evening Meal) at Corndene



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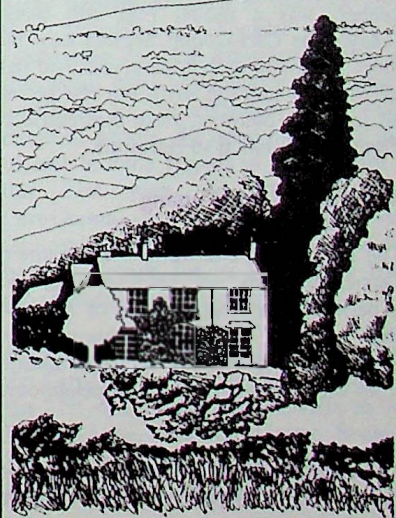
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- many local attractions

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# The Carr-Gomm Society

## Who's lonely?

'I am so lonely in my cage, please let me sit in a cage with the other prisoners' — Mafia Godfather on trial for murder, Sicily, March 1986.

(During the recent Mafia trials, the accused were segregated from the rest of the court in cage-like structures, for their own protection as much as for that of judge and jury.)

Though M..... is detained elsewhere and will probably never require the sort of services the Carr-Gomm Society offers its residents, his plea to the court nonetheless vividly illustrates that loneliness is a state that even the toughest, most ruthless among us, are unable to bear. This example, though almost absurdly extreme, is a perfect illustration of the lonely person in a crowd — cut off, yet surrounded by people, faced with a hostile audience his feelings of isolation are exaggerated to an intolerable level. His defences are down, and he is forced to beg, turning to the judge, his 'enemy', for help.

Richard Carr-Gomm, who founded both the Carr-Gomm Society and the Abbeyfield Society, believes that loneliness is a universal experience, and in Carr-Gomm has created an ally for the lonely to turn to.

And it was his conviction, that each and everyone of us knows, to some extent, the pain and despair of loneliness, that led him to look for an answer. What he came up with, the idea of small, permanent homes for 6-10 people of any age, either sex and varied backgrounds, where there is a degree of support and encouragement from a residential house-keeper, was a model that still works today. The Carr-Gomm Society now has more than 100 such houses, just over half of them in London, with the rest spread all over the country, from Newcastle to Plymouth, Ipswich to Hereford.

## More than just housing

The lonely men and women who come to Carr-Gomm do so because they are experiencing a deeper sense of isolation than most of us will ever know. They have been cut off, for whatever reason, from their family, friends and neighbours.

*'An ordinary house on an ordinary street': one of the Carr-Gomm houses in south London.*

But, for the most part, they are people who cannot, or do not want to, live alone. Some stay with Carr-Gomm just a few months, while others stay for a lifetime. Many say they wished they had heard of Carr-Gomm before: The Revd Malcolm (Polly) Perkins, a Toc H member, who is employed by Carr-Gomm as a Regional Organiser for the South East Region, tells the story of Les, a man who lived in a hospital, institutionalised, for over 30 years. The reasons for Les's original committal were forgotten, and certainly no longer applied, but he was still there because he simply had nowhere else to go. Due to the efforts of the Vicar of Maidstone and Toc H members, Les was eventually discharged from hospital. He lived in hostels for a while, and when the Carr-Gomm Committee in Maidstone opened their first house, he moved in. Within a couple of months he changed from a withdrawn, shy person, to become an active friendly member of the household, and a great friend to many of the other residents, the house-keeper and the Committee. Sadly, he died recently, having spent two years in the house. But he often said that his time with Carr-Gomm had given him a hope and happiness he had not known for many, many years, and had almost forgotten could exist.

Because we take such a variety of people and try, very hard, not to label them according to specific problems or illnesses, some residents do find, of course, that Carr-Gomm doesn't provide what they need or want. We have the added responsibility of creating a 'compatible' household and ensuring that the mixture

of people we have brought together can, in fact, live together. We encourage neighbours, who have sometimes objected in the first instance to the idea of a Carr-Gomm house next door, to join in the life of the household and befriend the residents — often to the mutual benefit of both.

## New Departures

More recently, we have started to examine the extent to which our housing and services can be a complete solution to the problems of isolation. Written into the Society's original objectives was the proviso of providing residents with the 'encouragement to enter into the life of the wider community'. Traditionally, this 'encouragement' has been in the form of activities such as house meetings, holidays, outings and parties, and, most importantly, the contact with neighbours in the immediate vicinity of the houses.

However, we recently felt it was time to expand the services available to our residents, especially when we started to concentrate more and more developments in the large towns and cities; London is the prime example, with 54 houses, albeit spread over a relatively large geographical area, in one city.

It was also important, in view of unemployment amongst residents reaching very high levels (90%-100% in some houses), to provide them with the opportunity for some work experience in order to ensure that they were not excluded from the job market altogether. Centres, such as the one in Deptford High





# Society - a Charitable Housing Association for Lonely People

Debbie Lyne

Street (see below), also provide an all-important focal point for new friendships, as well as the chance to learn new skills and to enjoy recreational facilities.

In London, the following initiatives have recently been set up:

## - A Residents' Association

Formed in 1981, the London-based Central Residents' Association produces its own newsletter, 'Link', holds regular meetings which are increasingly well-attended, discussing a wide range of issues, and organising activities and holidays. The Residents' Association has recently written and approved a formal constitution and will shortly have its own budget, bank account and fund-raising side.

## - The Work Force

The Work Force is a group of residents who carry out light repair work, driving, decorating, gardening etc, around the London houses. Most residents receive Supplementary or Unemployment Benefit, and are paid lunch money and a small allowance within DHSS limits. Work is co-ordinated by a full-time Work Force Supervisor, and we have recently appointed two full-time Work Force Assistants, who will supervise and, where appropriate, train the Work Force. The success of the Work Force can be measured in the increasing amount of work it carries out - a total of 96 hours in April 1986 - and its popularity amongst residents, who are joining in significant numbers. While we realise it is

important to maintain a continuity, it is up to each resident to commit him/herself to working the amount of hours which suits them. The Work Force is based at Deptford High Street.

## - Deptford Drop-In Centre

Perhaps our most significant 'Non-Residential' initiative to date was the purchase, in July 1985, of the lease on an old furniture store in Deptford High Street, South East London. The Centre, which is being converted by the Work Force, will be used as a drop-in centre for residents to hold meetings, for recreation and day or evening classes; a workshop is being built, and the Work Force will be based there; the public, staff and friends will be welcome to drop in, and there are plans to open a cafe and shop in the Centre.

A Users' Group consisting mainly of residents, has been established, and is currently setting a calendar of events.

We envisage that, just as the first houses became 'Models' for those that followed, the centre in Deptford will be used as a model for similar Carr-Gomm ventures around London and the rest of the country.

## Toc H and Carr-Gomm working together

The aims and objectives of Toc H and Carr-Gomm are strikingly similar, and it is only in the services we provide that there is an essential difference between our two organisations. But the mutual empathy



*Richard Carr-Gomm, Founder of the Carr-Gomm Society, is presented with a commemorative plate to mark his 21 years with the Society by the north London residents.*

that exists is concretely demonstrated in the number of Toc H members on Carr-Gomm local committees. This is not just coincidence, and is, for the most part, due to the commitment of our South East Regional Organiser, Revd Malcolm (Polly) Perkins. Polly joined Toc H in 1944 and became a Regional Staff Padre in 1973 - he stayed for 12 years, until his retirement in 1985. He joined Carr-Gomm in 1982 and has since been instrumental in setting up many of the local committees in the South-East area, and securing the interest and involvement of Toc H through his long-established contact with local Branches.

## Carr-Gomm, working with lonely people for 21 years

From September 1986 to Summer 1987 the Carr-Gomm Society will be celebrating its 21st Anniversary. We see this as an ideal opportunity for bringing loneliness to the attention of a wider circle of people. We hope many will join us and become friends of Carr-Gomm in our 21st year. As we open new Carr-Gomm houses at a rapid rate (approximately one a month), 1987 will be a landmark for us in another way, too: housing 1,000 people.

If you would like to know more about the Carr-Gomm Society and our plans for the 21st Anniversary, please write to me, Debbie Lyne, The Carr-Gomm Society, 38 Gomm Road, London SE16 2TX. I look forward to hearing from you.



*Work underway at our Deptford High Street Drop-In Centre. The Centre is already in use and is due to be open to the public in early 1987.*



# We will Remember...

**Editor's Note:**  
Due to pressure of space, the Editor usually has to reduce the length of tributes sent in – and will continue to do so unless the author specifically requests 'All or nothing'!

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## Not previously recorded

Marjorie J Eschmann (Wessex District)  
Raymond C Bonnor (Chalfonts)  
Dilys Roberts (Blaenau Ffestiniog)

## In May

Thomas T Hardwick (Wimbledon)  
Gerald B de Courcy-Ireland MVO MC  
(Surrey District)  
Walter R Young (Nailsea)

## In June

John J Black (Springfields District)  
Rev J A 'Alex' Holden (Hitchin)  
Fred Richardson (Ely)  
Florence E Stewart (Southampton)  
Muriel Warman (Crediton)  
Vera M Whittaker (Gorleston)  
Sydney Wilkinson (Knightthorpe)

## In July

Constance L Chappell (Skegness)  
Mary Collins (Springfields District)  
Evelyn Lawton (Whitstable)  
Margaret Thomas (Trimley)

Ernest F Goodman passed away suddenly on 23 April having served for over 30 years with Coney Hall Branch.

'Ernie' had during the course of a very active Toc H life fulfilled many roles – Central Councillor, District Chairman, Branch Chairman etc.

As a foremost member of the Springfields Development Team his leadership was mainly responsible for childrens' summer camps and as Treasurer of this hybrid group his energy behind the annual sponsored swims resulted in a high rate of success.

Often as a result of his Toc H experience Ernie discovered other charitable outlets for his talents and in particular became involved with the Shaftesbury Society residential home and with Cheyne Hospital.

Always outspoken, both in praise and in criticism, Ernie has left a lasting memory to those of us who had the privilege of working with him over a wide range of worthwhile ventures.

LH

Margaret Thorne who died on 11 May in St John's Hospice in Wirral was the widow of Ralph Thorne who, at the time of his death in December 1976, was a member of the Central Executive. She and Ralph worked very closely together since joining Toc H in Ipswich in 1950, from where they moved to Hemel Hempstead and then to Bebington in 1967.

Margaret was always a 'doer'. In Hemel Hempstead she was active in helping people in trouble. On Merseyside with Ralph

she was closely involved in the running of Gladstone House and continued with this work up to its closure. She was a stalwart of the Lunch Club that met there and subsequently at St Nicholas Church (Liverpool Parish Church known as The Seaman's Church) where no-one could match her as a maker of soups. She will be greatly missed.

*'John Black, who died in June, had been blind for many years when he joined the Mitcham Branch', writes Marjorie Rorke, 'he was a regular member of Mitcham, and later of the District Branch. After many years of darkness he does now see The Light'.*

Marjorie Rorke has written to tell us of the death of Mary Collins at the age of 92. She and her late husband Jack had been founder members of both the men's and women's branches in Streatham and 'Toc H became the greatest influence in their lives, next to their Church'. Mary's long life was 'packed with service and activity. She was a keen tennis player and table tennis player into her 60s. As a trained soprano she gave many years of service with the Cosmopolitan Toc H Concert Party. She and Jack were faithful visitors at the British Home for Incurables for well over 40 years. We do not' says Marjorie 'meet their like every day, and Toc H is poorer for Mary's passing'.

We give thanks for their lives

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

1986 is the 25th anniversary of the founding of Amnesty International.

Amnesty was launched on Sunday, 28 May 1961 through a newspaper article entitled 'The Forgotten Prisoners'. Quoting the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the article drew attention to the plight of people imprisoned for their beliefs in countries around the world of all political complexions. It pointed out that governments are sensitive to world opinion and that an international, non-sectarian movement could persuade governments to live up to their commitments to human rights.

Since that time Amnesty International has grown into such a movement. We believe that we have helped in many individual cases. But repression has continually stepped in and Amnesty's work is as necessary now as it was in 1961. In order to eradicate imprisonment of Prisoners of Conscience, torture and executions for ever from the face of the

earth, we need more help than ever. We need your help.

## Religious people

A Quaker, a Catholic and a Church of England Protestant were the three original founders of Amnesty International. Since then Jewish people and those of many other faiths around the world have joined Amnesty's efforts. The elimination of imprisonment for religious beliefs has always been one of Amnesty's central objectives. The British Section has a Religious Bodies Liaison Panel and organises an annual Religious Conference on Human Rights.

One of the cases cited in the original newspaper article was Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary. Cardinal Mindszenty was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1949 for 'conspiracy' after the Communists gained power. Liberated during the Revolution in 1956, he returned to Budapest, but when Hungary was invaded by the Soviet Union

he took refuge in the US Embassy, where he spent the next 15 years. In 1971 the Vatican persuaded him to leave the Embassy and he spent the last four years of his life in a religious community in Vienna.

These are some of AI's current cases:

**Father Hayko Manuel Eldemir – Turkey**  
Father Eldemir is a priest of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem. He was detained in October 1980 at Istanbul Airport, together with a group of Turkish-Armenian boys. The boys were subsequently released, but Father Eldemir was brought to trial in June and in March 1983 was convicted of 'having participated in activities against the state, damaging the interests of the country, by utilising his priesthood'. He was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Amnesty International believes that this 31 year old priest's imprisonment relates solely to his ethnic origin as an Armenian, and has adopted him as a Prisoner of Conscience.





Members of Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch, with helpers and prize winners at a 'tea and stalls' which raised over £100 for Branch funds.

Amnesty International is 25 years old this year. During that time the organisation has worked for the release of prisoners of conscience, and for that justice without which peace is just an empty word. If you would like more information, or if you think there may be some way in which you can help, please write to: Amnesty International British Section, 5 Robert's Place, London EC1R 0EF.

#### Thich Nu Tri Hai – Vietnam

Thich Nu Tri Hai was arrested with 11 other Buddhist nuns and monks following police raids on two pagodas in April 1984.

A foremost Buddhist scholar who received a university education in the USA, 46-year-old Thich Nu Tri Hai was chief librarian of Saigon's Buddhist University before its dissolution in 1975 and active in the peace movement during the Vietnam War. Since 1977 the state has sought to bring Buddhist organisations under its control. Thich Nu Tri Hai was last heard to be held without charge or trial at Chi Hoa Prison, Ho Minh City. She is reported to be in poor health.

#### Leonid Volvovsky – USSR

Convicted of 'circulating anti-Soviet slander' in October 1985, Soviet Jew Leonid Volvovsky was given a maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment. The charges included lending Leon Uris' novel 'Exodus' to friends and distributing back copies of an Israeli cultural

magazine 'Israel Today'. Leonid Volvovsky had also been involved in unofficial religious activities and before his arrest was trying to discover the whereabouts of Andrei Sakharov. A 43-year-old former computer scientist, he is a long standing would-be emigrant to Israel.

#### Orton and Vera Chirwa – Malawi

Orton Chirwa is a former senior Cabinet Minister and Vera a university law lecturer in Malawi. Orton is an elder in the Church of Scotland. In 1964 when Malawi became independent, following a cabinet dispute, Orton left the country and founded a peaceful opposition movement. The Chirwas claim they were kidnapped from Zambia in 1981. They were detained in Malawi and charged with treason in June 1982, and sentenced to death. In June 1984 this was commuted to life imprisonment. AI believes they are detained for their peaceful political views and that they did not receive a fair trial.

#### What You Can Do

1. AI was launched on Trinity Sunday, 28 May 1961. Hold a special anniversary service for Amnesty, whatever your religion may be. Please take a collection and send it to Amnesty. Pray for the prisoners in this article.
2. Join Amnesty. Your membership gives us one more card in our hand to show governments the strength of our support. Your financial support helps sustain our campaigns for thousands of individuals around the world.
3. Make Amnesty a regular part of your activities. Your Branch can affiliate to the British Section and receive information and ideas for appeals. Writing a letter may save a life.
4. Support your local Amnesty Group. They need help for their prisoner work, for publicity, events in the community, assistance to refugees, fundraising and campaign work.



# 'In Focus'

'IN FOCUS' is a new series in 'Point Three'. In the course of a year we shall be focusing attention on different aspects of the Movement's life. It will give opportunities for more extensive articles than it is possible to include in 'Round and About' or through 'Open Forum'. We hope you will find it both interesting and enjoyable.

## A Talent for Persuasion Margaret Eaton

It all began for Downend Women's Branch in October 1984 with the Regional Day Conference at Saltford led by Frank Rice, with his team of speakers — Joyce Green, Ali Sheppard, John Mitchell and Peter Rankin. Our members came home determined to bring Toc H to the notice of others, and to get the Branch known in the local community.

Our first step was to take part in a local Charity Market at the Folk House. Together with goods for sale on our stall we displayed a large amount of free Toc H literature and Toc H carrier bags. From this, with investment of our takings, we realised £70 for the Family Purse, and brought the name of Toc H before a large number of people.

We then planned three Coffee Evenings at intervals of a few weeks. All members used their 'talent for persuasion' to get as many people as possible to come, those with cars bringing people from Grace Court, a local home for the elderly. Each Branch member was allocated a job — welcoming guests, taking money, selling raffle tickets, or serving refreshments. These jobs were rotated on each occasion so that it wasn't always the same two washing up! Our chairman went begging to local shops and was given gifts and tokens for raffles. The evenings were most successful, and everyone enjoyed them. Each occasion gave us an opportunity to talk about Toc H to our

guests both formally, with a talk by the chairman, and informally over coffee, and, of course, there was plenty of Toc H literature available.

Each of the Evenings had a special objective, and the first was to raise money for a 'Talking Book for the Blind'. The idea came from a blind member who uses the scheme. We had been visited by a speaker from the RNIB who had explained the scheme, and left us with free literature. A 'Book', we learned, would cost £350. Our first evening raised £100 towards this.

The next evening was held in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This idea arose out of our friendship with a regular visitor to the Branch who has this condition. Once again we had had a speaker from the local branch of the Society who, as well as giving us much useful information and a good deal of literature, presented us with boxes of chocolates to raffle, and attended the Coffee Evening himself. With the addition of a Bring and Buy Stall we raised £80, and this was later increased to £100 by the generosity of an anonymous donor, who also added to our Talking Book Fund.

We hold our Branch meetings at our local Friendship Centre, so our third Coffee Evening was intended as a 'Thank You' to them. Many people asked for information



about Toc H, and everyone wanted to know when we were having more social evenings! At the end of the evening we were glad to be able to make a donation to the Friendship Centre.

We felt that we had achieved some success so far in several ways, but we had still not reached our target of £350 for a Talking Book. A 'nearly new' sale raised the total to £300, and at this juncture the residents of Grace Court invited us to come and have a Coffee Evening in their large lounge, since they had so much enjoyed coming to us. The evening was a great success, and as a result we were able to present a cheque for £360 to the RNIB representative at our Christmas Evening.

The next event came as quite a surprise. Our friend from the local Multiple Sclerosis Society had given us a good deal of support, bringing boxes of chocolates

## Toc H returns to Scartho

John Biggerstaff

To the outsider Scartho does not, perhaps, sound the most prepossessing place in God's Kingdom, nor for that matter does its close neighbour Grimsby, but those who live there and those who visit soon discover the attractions of the setting, as I was to find when I made my first sortie into that neighbourhood in December 1985. That it had taken so long for me to make that visit caused me some personal concern when I realised what an asset Toc H still had in Scartho.

From the 1940s until 1978 there had been an active branch of Toc H. In 1964 it had decided to equip itself with a good meeting place and had gone ahead with the purchase and construction of a pavilion on a site leased from the local



*A coffee evening at the Pavilion at Scartho.*

Scouts, who were to be its neighbours. The years passed and service was continued, until a realisation dawned that the membership strength was decreasing in number, in physical ability and in the capacity to undertake new jobs. So the Branch closed and for the next eight years a loyal group of members and non-members continued to manage the

Toc H Pavilion making it available to local groups. One of those groups was a Dancing Class for young people and no one then knew how important that group was to prove to be to the future of Toc H in Scartho.

A meeting on the occasion of the Toc H World Chain of Light ended with those attending determined to bring Toc H in Scartho to full and active life. Meetings took place during the Winter and plans were made for two events in May of this year. The first was a coffee evening shared between Toc H and the new local hospice, St George's. That evening brought many through the doors of the Pavilion and saw the newly formed Scartho Group off to a successful start.

But wait! Whatever happened to the Dancing Class? The Pavilion had stood the test of time but the weather was beginning to have an adverse effect upon the roof, and close examination suggested



**'IN FOCUS'** this month are two Branches – Downend and Scartho. Each is a story of revival and new life founded in a new sense of purpose.

for all our raffles, and now we had an invitation to one of their Social Evenings where we were introduced as 'The Toc H Friends of MS'. This, we felt, was a tribute to the whole Branch. Not long after this we were contacted by the local Church Wives' Group. Hearing that Toc H was a registered charity, and knowing a little of what we had been trying to do, they wished to choose us as their beneficiaries for 1986! We are exchanging visits in order to get to know more about each other.

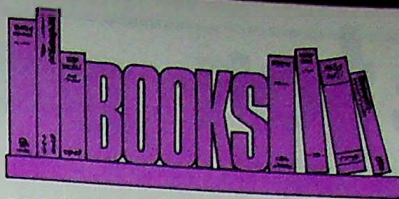
Three more Coffee Evenings will take place during 1986, and our members will still be exercising their 'talent for persuasion' to involve more people. We shall be supporting a local Hard of Hearing Club, with whom we have already exchanged some visits, LEPR, and, of course, Toc H. We feel very glad that, although we are a fairly small Branch of 15 members, we have, with the help of our friends, been able to 'put Toc H on the map' again. We have made many new friends, some of whom now join us each week, appreciating the warmth, fellowship and friendliness which they find.

We are all 'young at heart' and this has been written to show what one Branch can do, without a great deal of effort, but using all the talents we have between us – which add up to a surprising plenteousness. Perhaps chief among them is that 'talent for persuasion' which everyone has exercised and with which we began in the first place.

it would need replacing very soon. Target £1,200: Result new roof. The new Group made this need known to the Dancing Class and the girls offered to put on an evening performance of their prize-winning repertoire in the Memorial Hall in Cleethorpes.

Late May saw the Hall well filled with spectators and the girls danced, sang and performed their set pieces to the total delight of the audience. By the end of the evening they had raised over £200 for the roof replacement fund and put the new Toc H Group well on its way towards its £600 share of the total cost. The rest of the cost is being met from Toc H funds, for which every member is extremely grateful and is sure that this will bring about a fresh impetus for Toc H in Scartho.

Like me, you may have never heard of Scartho before, but believe me I think we may hear a lot more from it in the future.



**It's all ours. Em-Press Books, 9 College Street, Nottingham NG1 5AT. £1.75**

One doesn't read children's verse in hopes of finding an immortal poem or of spotting the next Poet Laureate but two. One reads it for the direct expression of the child's experience and the occasional flash of original, quirky humour. This collection of writing by Nottinghamshire schoolchildren, produced as part of the celebration of last year's D H Lawrence centenary and edited by Betty Parvin, a regular visitor to Alison House, is no exception.

If it contains too many blandly derivative descriptions of nature – as well as some effective animal poems, inspired I imagine by the writing of Ted Hughes – it has

plenty of pieces which shine with the truth of real, felt experience or which express a genuine child's view of the world. Like Carolyn Youdell's beautifully understated poem on the death of her grandmother. She writes of her grandmother's collection of shells which were to Carolyn 'Money/sometimes sweets/bright buttons/cakes./Never shells./Now she's gone./Now they are shells.' Or 11 year old Wayne Kirk on litter: 'You can't call this a Planet,/it's more like a skip!' Or Rachael Woodleigh's effectively worked out fantasy, 'In the tower on the top of the hill'. Or Luke Smith's stark poem 'Holocaust', with its ironic closing image: 'The sky burns, and somewhere in a deep,/dark, blast-proof bunker, /politicians gather round a mahogany table/and life their glasses to the toast . . . WE WON!'

All in all a collection well worth printing and well worth reading.

KP-B

## Facing Prejudices

As members of Toc H we are pledged to lessen by thought, word and deed, the prejudices which separate people.

To begin to explore our prejudices a number of day events are being organised on different topics at a variety of places around the country. These are open to all, whether Toc H members or not. Each day will be interesting and will seek to challenge our prejudices.

It is hoped that many people will be interested in this unusual Toc H activity, so please inform other people!

You are warmly invited to participate in the first topic, which will be

### Criminality

on 2 October 1986

or 18 October 1986

at 38 Newark Street, London E1



We hope that there will be a barrister, a magistrate, a victim support adviser and an ex-offender amongst us and we will all be actively involved rather than passively listening.

Please book a place through:

Rev Alan Johnson

Ballina, Otford Lane, Halstead, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7EA

We will be asking for a donation of at least £4, although the actual cost per person will be £8. Send cheques made payable to Toc H to the above address to secure a place.

Don't forget to say which date you want to come!



# Anyone for Football?

Derek Mallion

The present club was formed at the beginning of the 1985-86 Football season. There had always been a Wadhurst Football Club in the village, up until approximately 1968-70, when the two teams Toc H and Wadhurst amalgamated to form Wadhurst United. Several of our lads, including myself, had played for the Toc H minor league side back in those days, and after discussion, thought this would be a good time to resurrect the name of Wadhurst Toc H Football Club, so we spoke to two of the original Toc H members (Roy Wilcox and John Willett) who thought it would be an excellent idea, and could see no reason for any objections.

When forming any football club there are obviously financial problems, especially when starting from scratch. All the players and several prominent local businessmen donated various sums of money to get us started, and eventually we managed to secure the lease of the ground that Wadhurst Toc H had originally played on, Sparrows Green Playing Field. Further mid-season fund raising ideas have enabled us to buy new equipment, eg footballs and line marking equipment, and also to provide kitchen facilities in the pavilion.



Photo: Courier Newspapers

We have recently completed a very successful first season, winning the East Sussex Division Four Challenge Trophy and also the Division Four League Cup, losing only two games all season. The demand by so many players to play for Toc H has enabled us to form a Second Eleven, who hopefully will be just as successful as the First Eleven in the

A few weeks ago we were surprised to receive a press cutting referring to the Wadhurst Toc H Football Club! What, we asked, was happening to Toc H in Sussex? Now we know, and thought you might like to know too. Ed

coming season. At present we have a total of 40 members, all young lads between the ages of 16-30 years.

We have certainly managed to start people talking about Toc H in this corner of the world again and the way things are going at present, the club looks to have a very bright future.

## Under New Management

John A Biggerstaff

Alison House, in Cromford, near Matlock, is the remaining legacy of the Toc H Women's Association. This year has seen changes there following the retirement of Irene and Alan Robson. Change can lead to apprehension and uncertainty among those who are familiar with the centre — few of us accept it readily, willingly or easily. Most seek stability, continuity and the pattern of traditional routine.

The House is now beginning to come to terms with change and visitors this spring and summer have already had a chance to get to know Elizabeth and Derek Bartrop who succeeded Irene and Alan in April. Elizabeth and Derek have a deep Christian faith, believe in the importance of 'Christian Workmen' in today's society and are committed to caring for all who come to stay at Alison House.

Derek is the youngest of four children and was born in Sussex, where, completing his schooling, he became an

apprentice gardener, moving on after a short time to become assistant manager to a commercial stationers. After a further 18 months he became a volunteer with 'Time for God', a scheme giving young people a chance to engage in voluntary Christian service. He met Elizabeth, who had become a volunteer under the same scheme, when they were working at Hereward Wake House, the home of the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs. Elizabeth is the eldest of four children, born at Swallowsnest, Sheffield. They married in London, where they had moved to follow their respective careers as 'Christian Workmen'. Derek took on the maintenance work at a Christian language school and Liz followed a course of training for the hotel and catering industry, qualifying with an OND and membership of the HCIMA.

They worked together looking after a hostel for foreign students coming here

to learn English. Later they moved to Yorkshire, joining the staff of the Lindley Lodge Educational Trust at Swinton Castle, part of Lord Swinton's estate (which includes the Toc H Centre at Colsterdale). Following changes within the Trust they decided to move on. Elizabeth became responsible for the catering at Ripon Theological College, Cuddesdon, and Derek developed his own property maintenance business.

Since arriving at Alison House, they have become concerned that Toc H is failing to make the best use of the centre. Bookings from members have fallen steadily since 1983, and there has been no significant increase in use by other groups. They are working with the Management Committee and Trustees to find ways of reversing this trend, and this will necessarily involve further changes in 1987. But whatever those changes may be, Elizabeth and Derek will be glad to welcome all visitors to Alison House.



# Forthcoming Events

## September

5-7	Central Executive Weekend at Cuddesdon
6	North Wales & North West REC
13	Southport Day Conference
13	Merseyside District Day
19/20	South Western Regional Council at Kingsteignton
26-28	Practical Drama weekend, Kingsteignton Open
26-28	Quiet Weekend, Cuddesdon Open

## October

4	Area Rally, Harpenden, Herts	Open
4	Festival of Music, Manchester	Open
4-11	Project 43, Caring and Sharing Holiday	
	Ashwellthorpe Hall, Norfolk	Open
11	North Wales & North West Regional Council	
18	Southern Regional Council	
24-26	Notts & Derby Area Weekend, Alison House	

## November

7-9	Central Council, Swanwick
28-30	Fellowship & Gardening, Kingsteignton

## Warden Manor Awards 1987

The aim of the Warden Manor Awards as set out in the original terms of reference is 'to encourage local initiatives by Districts, Branches or Groups which will extend the influence of Toc H with particular emphasis on the potential for any increase in membership'.

When the selection committee, for the 1987 awards, meet they will be asked to keep that aim in mind; they will also be asked to look for applications which will extend our activities amongst the ethnic minorities.

Details and application forms are being sent out this month.

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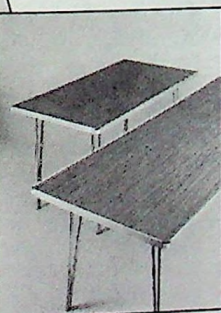
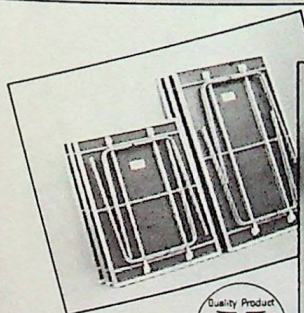
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## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) plus VAT, to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Jaywick, Clacton, Essex. Sea wall chalet, ideal for two adults, can sleep three. Car parking available, near shops. All electric. April to October £32 pw. Apply: Miss Nicholls, 38 Kings Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

Conwy. B & B from £8. Dinner optional. Walking, touring, sea, mountains, on the edge of beautiful Snowdonia. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.



# TOC H CHRISTMAS CARDS

1



Size: 5 7/8 x 4 1/8", 148 x 105mm.

All printed in full colour.

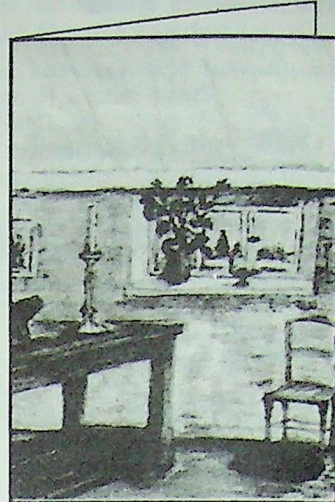
Packed only in 10's of one design with envelopes.

*Season's Greetings  
and Best Wishes  
for the New Year*

2



3



PRICE: £1.20 per pack of 10 cards, plus 10p per pack if posting is required. Cash with order please, cheques to 'Toc H'. FROM: South East Regional Staff, or, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. Please SPECIFY the designs wanted by number. If stocks run low, we will send alternatives.

Published by Toc H, South East Region, in aid of Peter East Fund and similar Toc H work overseas.

*With every Good Wish  
for Christmas  
and the New Year*

## Come to Lindridge House

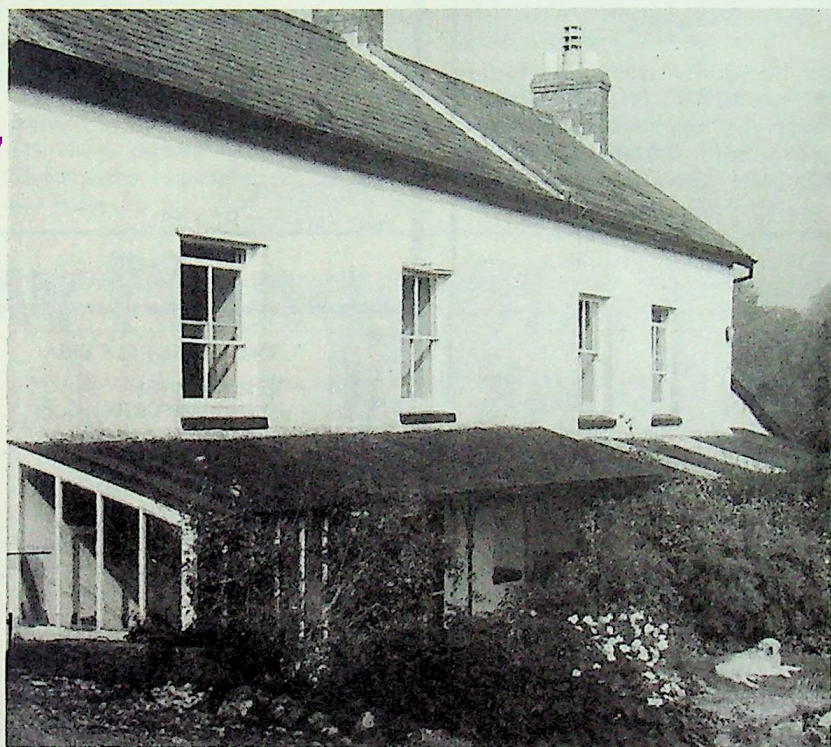
Lindridge is a peaceful old farmhouse set in the Devon countryside between Dartmoor and the sea. Jane and Philip Douch, staff members based at the house, invite members, volunteers and friends to the following events:

### Practical Drama Weekend – 26-28 September

A chance to have a bash at some talking exercises, movement and improvisation. Absolutely no skill or experience is required and you won't have to 'perform' since the aim is not to produce a play but to have fun exploring skills you never knew you had. You'll pick up some useful hints on things to do with all sorts of groups too.

### Fellowship and Gardening Weekend – 28-30 November

Come and spend a weekend with a mixed group of people working alongside each other in our lovely grounds. There'll be plenty to do, both for the experienced gardener and the ignorant enthusiast – and also plenty of time to chat and relax together.



### A Little of What You Fancy! 5-7 December

Each person who comes undertakes to run a session for everybody else which can last for anything between five minutes and an hour – and in turn participates in what each of the other people offers the group. You can do literally anything, from a talk to a group exercise, indoors or out, Toc H

related or non-Toc H altogether. We give you the people and you do a little of what you fancy with them!

Cost for each event is £13, including £5 booking fee as deposit to Jane and Philip Douch, Lindridge House, Lindridge Hill, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 3QE. Tel: 0626-65670.